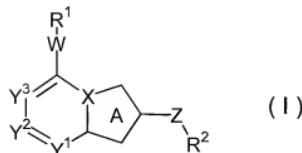
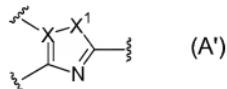


AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

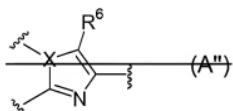
1. (Currently Amended) A compound represented by the formula (I):



wherein, ring A is a 5-membered ring represented by the formula (A'):



wherein X is a carbon and X¹ is an oxygen, a sulfur or -NR⁵- (wherein R⁵ is a C₁₋₄ alkyl hydrogen, an optionally substituted hydrocarbyl or an acyl), or formula (A''):



wherein X is a nitrogen and R⁶ is a hydrogen, an optionally substituted hydrocarbyl or an acyl;
R¹ is (1) an amino substituted by two substituents selected from an optionally substituted hydrocarbyl groupC₁₋₄ alkyl, an optionally substituted phenyl and an optionally substituted heterocyclic grouppyridyl, or (2) an optionally substituted cyclic amino, provided that the amino nitrogen of said cyclic amino has no carbonyl adjacent to the nitrogen;

R² is an optionally substituted phenylalkyl, an optionally substituted cycloalkyl, an optionally substituted cycloalkenyl, an optionally substituted aryl or an optionally substituted pyridylheterocyclic;

Y¹, Y² and Y³ are each an optionally substituted methyne optionally substituted by a halogen or a nitrogen, provided that one or less of Y¹, Y² and Y³ is nitrogen;

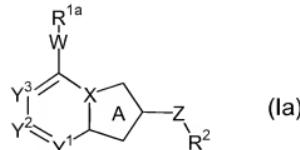
W is a bond, -(CH₂)_n- or -(CH₂)_m-CO- (wherein n is an integer of 1 to 4 and m is an integer of 0 to 4); and Z is -NH- a bond, CO, an oxygen, a sulfur, -SO₂, SO₂⁴, NR⁴-alk-, CONR⁴- or NR⁴CO- (wherein alk is an optionally substituted C₁₋₄ alkylene and R⁴ is a hydrogen, an optionally substituted hydrocarbyl or an acyl);

provided that (i) the compound wherein ring A is the 5-membered ring of the formula A' (wherein X is a carbon and X⁺ is a sulfur), W is a bond, Z is -NHCO- or -CONH-, and Y⁺ is CR^{2a} (wherein R^{2a} is a hydrogen, a halogen, or an alkoxy) and
(ii) the compound wherein ring A is the 5-membered ring of the formula A' (wherein X is a carbon and X⁺ is an oxygen, a sulfur, or -NH-), R⁺ is an optionally substituted 1-piperazinyl, W is a bond, Z is a bond and R² is an optionally substituted aryl, are excluded; or a salt thereof.

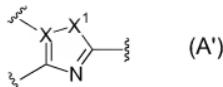
2. (Cancelled)
3. (Currently Amended) The compound according to claim 1 wherein R¹ is an amino substituted by two optionally substituted C₁₋₄ alkylalkyls groups.
4. (Withdrawn-Currently Amended) The compound according to claim 1 wherein R¹ is an amino substituted by an optionally substituted C₁₋₄ alkyl and an optionally substituted phenyl or an optionally substituted heterocyclic pyridyl.
5. (Withdrawn) The compound according to claim 1 wherein R¹ is a 5- or 6-membered cyclic amino which may be substituted with one or more substituents.

6-12. (Cancelled)

13. (Withdrawn-Currently Amended) A method for treating or preventing a disease wherein a CRF receptor is implicated, which comprises administering to a subject in need thereof an effective amount of a compound represented by the formula (Ia):

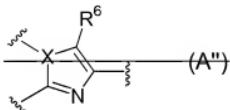


wherein ring A is a 5-membered ring represented by the formula (A'):



(A')

wherein X is a carbon and X¹ is an oxygen, a sulfur or -NR⁵- (wherein R⁵ is C₁₋₄ alkyl hydrogen, an optionally substituted hydrocarbyl or an acyl), or formula (A''):



(A'')

wherein X is a nitrogen and R⁶ is a hydrogen, an optionally substituted hydrocarbyl or an acyl; R^{1a} is (1) an amino substituted by two substituents selected from an optionally substituted C₁₋₄ alkyl, an optionally substituted phenyl hydrocarbyl group and an optionally substituted pyridyl heterocyclic group, or (2) an optionally substituted cyclic amino; R² is an optionally substituted phenylalkyl, an optionally substituted cycloalkyl, an optionally substituted cycloalkenyl, an optionally substituted aryl or an optionally substituted pyridyl heterocyclic;

Y¹, Y² and Y³ are each an optionally substituted methyne optionally substituted by a halogen or a nitrogen, provided that one or less of Y¹, Y² and Y³ is nitrogen;

W is a bond, -(CH₂)_n or -(CH₂)_mCO, wherein n is an integer of 1 to 4 and m is an integer of 0 to 4; and

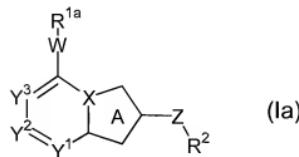
Z is a -NHbnd, -CO, an oxygen, a sulfur, SO, SO₂, NR⁴, NR⁴ alk, CONR⁴ or NR⁴CO (wherein alk is an optionally substituted C₁₋₄ alkylene and R⁴ is a hydrogen, an optionally substituted hydrocarbyl or an acyl);

provided that the compound wherein ring A is the 5-membered ring of the formula A' (wherein X is a carbon and X¹ is a sulfur), W is a bond, Z is -NHCO or CONH, and Y¹ is CR^{3a} (wherein R^{3a} is a halogen, or an alkoxy) is excluded;

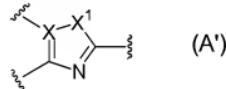
or a salt thereof.

14. (Withdrawn-Currently Amended) The method according to claim 13 wherein the disease being treated or prevented is selected from affective disorder, depression and anxiety.

15. (Withdrawn-Currently Amended) Use of A method for manufacturing a medicament for treating a disease wherein a CRF receptor is implicated, comprising combining a compound represented by the compound formula (Ia);



wherein ring A is a 5-membered ring represented by the formula (A');



wherein X is a carbon and X¹ is -NR⁵ - (wherein R⁵ is a C₁₋₄ alkyl);

R^{1a} is (1) an amino substituted by two substituents selected from an optionally substituted C₁₋₄ alkyl, an optionally substituted phenyl and an optionally substituted pyridyl, or (2) an optionally substituted cyclic amino;

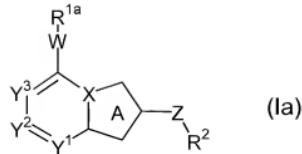
R² is an optionally substituted phenyl or an optionally substituted pyridyl;

Y¹, Y² and Y³ are each a methyne optionally substituted by a halogen;

W is a bond; and

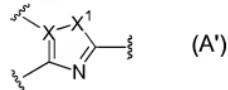
Z is -NH-; according to claim 13, or a salt thereof, with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier for manufacturing a medicament for preventing or treating a disease wherein a CRF receptor is implicated.

16. (Withdrawn-Currently Amended) Use of A method for manufacturing a medicament for treating affective disorder, depression or anxiety, comprising combining a compound represented by the compound formula (Ia);



(Ia)

wherein ring A is a 5-membered ring represented by the formula (A'):



(A')

wherein X is a carbon and X¹ is -NR⁵- (wherein R⁵ is a C₁₋₄ alkyl);

R^{1a} is (1) an amino substituted by two substituents selected from an optionally substituted C₁₋₄ alkyl, an optionally substituted phenyl and an optionally substituted pyridyl, or (2) an optionally substituted cyclic amino;

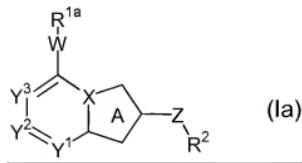
R² is an optionally substituted phenyl or an optionally substituted pyridyl;

Y¹, Y² and Y³ are each a methyne optionally substituted by a halogen;

W is a bond; and

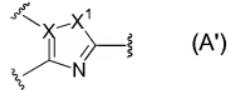
Z is -NH-; according to claim 13, or a salt thereof, with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier for manufacturing a medicament for preventing or treating affective disorder, depression or anxiety.

17. (Currently Amended) An agent for preventing or treating a disease wherein a CRF receptor is implicated, which comprises the compound represented by the formula (Ia);



(Ia)

wherein ring A is a 5-membered ring represented by the formula (A'):



(A')

wherein X is a carbon and X¹ is -NR⁵- (wherein R⁵ is a C₁₋₄ alkyl);

R^{1a} is (1) an amino substituted by two substituents selected from an optionally substituted C₁₋₄ alkyl, an optionally substituted phenyl and an optionally substituted pyridyl, or (2) an optionally substituted cyclic amino;

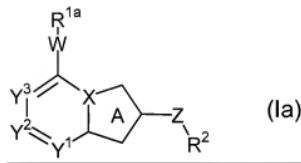
R² is an optionally substituted phenyl or an optionally substituted pyridyl;

Y¹, Y² and Y³ are each a methyne optionally substituted by a halogen;

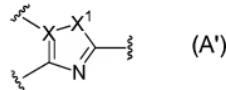
W is a bond; and

Z is -NH-; (la) according to claim 13 or a salt thereof.

18. An agent for preventing or treating affective disorder, depression or anxiety which comprises ~~the~~ compound represented by the formula (la):



wherein ring A is a 5-membered ring represented by the formula (A');



wherein X is a carbon and X¹ is -NR⁵- (wherein R⁵ is a C₁₋₄ alkyl);

R^{1a} is (1) an amino substituted by two substituents selected from an optionally substituted C₁₋₄ alkyl, an optionally substituted phenyl and an optionally substituted pyridyl, or (2) an optionally substituted cyclic amino;

R² is an optionally substituted phenyl or an optionally substituted pyridyl;

Y¹, Y² and Y³ are each a methyne optionally substituted by a halogen;

W is a bond; and

Z is -NH-; (la) according to claim 13 or a salt thereof.